



Western South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division Region 1
April 22, 2015



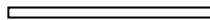
Region 1 Wildlife Report North District

DATE: 04-15-2015

Butte/Lawrence/Meade/Perkins Counties/Ziebach

**Reporting Officers: DCOS Mike Apland, WCO Bill Eastman. WCO Keith Mutschler,
WCO Ross Fees**

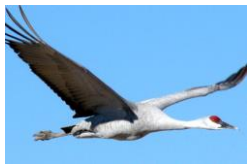
Fishing -



- **Butte County**
 - **Belle Fourche Res/Orman –**
- **Lawrence**
 - All lakes are open and the spring trout stocking schedule has begun
- **Meade County**
 - **Durkee Lake** – Not much fishing pressure.
- **Perkins County**

- **Shadehill Reservoir** – Catfish and a few walleye are being caught. As the water warms up a little the fishing should improve. Most anglers have been fishing from shore.
- **Grand River** -Anglers fishing in the grand river have been picking up a few walleye, northern pike and catfish.
- **Flat Creek** – A few northern and walleye are being caught.
- **Ziebach Co.**
 - Not much fishing pressure.

Hunting Report:



Waterfowl – A great time to get out and see a good variety of waterfowl.

Small Game – No report

Big Game

Turkey – Spring Turkey season opens this weekend. Some of the larger groups are starting to break up into smaller groups. Most successful hunters are doing well in the morning.

Land Report: This time of the year the department is signing up land for next years public hunting programs. If interested in learning more about such programs contact your local conservation officer.



Misc.

- **HuntSafe** – Classes are currently being scheduled across the state. Visit the GFP website under outdoor learning to check for upcoming classes in your area. If you don't see a class in your area, check periodically for updates to come.
- **Lawrence Co.** – Recently SDGFP has released Big Horn sheep in the Deadwood area. If you see the new additions, be careful and enjoy. The Sheep are still getting use to their new environment and we appreciate the locals support!!

Report Region 1 Wildlife

(SE Lawrence, S Meade, C Pennington, E Pennington, Haakon, N Jackson, NE Custer)

Central District

**Reporting Officers: WCO's Brainard, Edwards, Geigle, Keeton, Thomsen
DCOS McCormick**

DATE: 4/1/2015

Black Hills area lakes and streams:

Angler success in the Black Hills lakes is up from last week. Last week anglers (on Pactola) were catching Lake Trout and Northern Pike early in the mornings from a boat, but this week shore anglers have been successful in landing nice Lakers as well.

Fish were active in the afternoon on Rapid Creek below Pactola. Blue-Wing Olive and Black Stoneflies were hatching in the mid afternoon and some nice Browns were caught and released.

Fishing Activity: Western South Dakota

Wildlife:

Spring Black Hills Turkey Season started this past Saturday. Hunters were fairly successful in the Central District. Many hunters have found more success in the Southern Hills.

If you witness hunting violations, you may choose to remain anonymous and assist Officers by calling the TIPS hotline. The number is printed on the front cover of the 2015 fishing and hunting handbooks. Do your best to collect the license number of the vehicle involved? Your call will assist officers with making contact with



the individuals involved and changing their future hunting behavior. Illegal hunting behavior is destructive to the future of our hunting heritage.

Region 1 Wildlife Report

Southern District

DATE: 04/17/2014

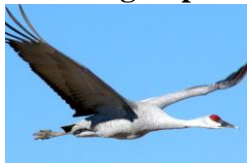
County: Bennett/East Shannon/South Jackson

Reporting Officer: WCO Tom Beck

Fishing Activity:

Angling remains slow in the area. A few trout are being caught at the Cedar creek trout dams and at Allen Dam.

Hunting Report:



Waterfowl – Not much new to report on waterfowl. I've heard quite a few sand hill cranes, but I have not seen any stop in this area. Canadian Geese are busy nesting in the area. I do not think the cooler weather or snow that we had was extreme enough to interfere with nesting success.

Small Game – Not much new to report here. We are working on our spring grouse lek survey at this time. Grouse had a very poor nesting success last year, but I'm seeing enough adults to be encouraged if we have any kind of nesting success. Likewise, while pheasant numbers are low in this area, if they have a good year with very good nesting success, we should have hunt able numbers again this fall. It won't be back to the high numbers of a couple of years ago, but we can move significantly that direction.

Big Game – Weather made it difficult for the opening weekend of the turkey season. We had a



day or two of good weather, but wind and snow on the other days made hunting challengeable. Hunters did have some success but are reporting seeing less birds than past years. That is understandable as there was very little turkey reproduction last year. There are still enough birds out there to make it a good hunt though.

Land Report: We are in the process of writing our five year management plan for the Todd Game Production Area. What does the plan consist of?

It basically says what our primary purpose of management is on the property and how we are going to accomplish that management. While most of our management will not be changing, we are planning on putting in a few more tree belts and converting some cropland acres to grassland while keeping our existing grassland areas in optimal cover for upland game and deer.



District Report:

Custer (South) see Pennington (West) for N. Custer

DATE: 4-07-14

WCO Jacob Ehlert

Fishing- Ice conditions are dangerous. DO NOT venture out onto the ice. I expect the ice will be off the lakes in the next week or two.



Big Game – Deer and Elk have mostly dropped antlers. There are many people out looking for sheds.

There have been many issues with people driving off-road and ‘gridding’ to find sheds using motorized vehicles. Officers with the U.S. Forest Service and Game, Fish and Parks have been aggressively addressing these wildlife harassment and off road travel violations.

With snow on the ground and food still scarce, deer and elk are very vulnerable this time of year. Besides the obvious resource damage caused by off-roading, it stresses the animals out and causes increases in mortality and alters their natural behavior. Read an in depth study on the impacts here:

http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/lagrande/starkey_na/PDFs_Preprints/ms-06_Wisdom.pdf

Small Game – Most seasons have closed.

Trapping/Furbearers – Most seasons have closed.

District Report: Report fish and wildlife violations. If you have any information please call TIPS at 1-888-Overbag.

County: Fall River

Reporting Officer: DJ Schroeder

DATE: 4-16-14

Fishing Activity:



Fishing should be picking up again this week with the warm weather. Several fishermen reporting success at Angostura and Coldbrook **Reservoirs**. Anglers should remember to check out there boat safety equipment and license requirements.

Hunting Report:

Small Game - Have been conducting grouse surveys these last few weeks. Seeing a few sharptails – but not much for numbers. Pheasant numbers still look low. We will continue to hope we have a good hatch this year.

Big Game – Turkey season opened and resulted in several birds being harvested. The weather was nice for a few of the days. Appears that the birds were a little harder to find last week - but several hunters reporting seeing or “working” a couple of gobblers. Many experience that difficulty of not being able to call the gobblers away from the hens.



Land Report:

We are currently working on the farming contracts and preparing to plant crops for the wildlife on our Department owned and managed lands. Short term grazing is also underway to help condition the grass and remove old crops and vegetation from the previous year.

Angler success in the Black Hills lakes is up from last week. Last week anglers (on Pactola) were catching Lake Trout and Northern Pike early in the mornings from a boat, but this week shore anglers have been successful in landing nice Lakers as well.

Fish were active in the afternoon on Rapid Creek below Pactola. Blue-Wing Olive and Black Stoneflies were hatching in the mid afternoon and some nice Browns were caught and released.

Wildlife:

Spring Black Hills Turkey Season started this past Saturday. Hunters were fairly successful in the Central District. Many hunters have found more success in the Southern Hills.



If you witness hunting violations, you may choose to remain anonymous and assist Officers by calling the TIPS hotline. The number is printed on the front cover of the 2015 fishing and hunting handbooks. Do your best to collect the license number of the vehicle involved? Your call will assist officers with making contact with the individuals involved and changing their future hunting behavior. Illegal hunting behavior is destructive to the future of our hunting heritage.

Sportsmen are asked to help assist us by reporting those you see taking over their limit of fish at Angostura or Coldbrook Reservoirs. It is much appreciated and you can help preserve the sport by reporting these violators.

Fishermen and boaters should remember to check their boat for required safety equipment and the proper licenses.

know of anyone that may be interested in enrolling their land in the program, please have them contact me.

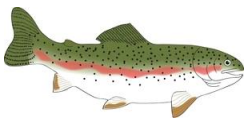


Date: 4/9/2015

County: West Custer/West Pennington

Reporting Officer: WCO Jacob Ehlert

Fishing: Trout fishing has been good on Deerfield.



Big Game: Turkey numbers are lower than in previous years. People who put their time in will likely find birds.

District Report: There will be a Huntsafe class in Custer starting April 21st, the class will be held at Southern Hills Tactical. You can check out the available classes on the GF&P website.

If you are interested in enrolling in Walk-In-Area please contact me. Also if you have not had landowner elk tags in the past and are eligible you must contact me before you apply!

If you have any information about a violation please call TIPS at 1-888-OVERBAG or your local Sheriff's Office. Making the call can prevent poachers from stealing YOUR public resource!



Date: 4/9/2015

County: **East Custer/South Pennington**

Reporting Officer: WCO Ron Tietz

Fishing Activity:

Lakota, Bismarck and Horse Thief lakes were all drained for the fall and winter and the clean out has been completed. Some fish were removed and transferred to other waters. In the last couple weeks the three lakes have been filling back up, it's a slow process but as soon as they are full they will be stocked with trout from the area hatcheries. Lakota Lake will likely be filled first.

Big Game:

No report.

District Report:

There will be a Huntsafe class in Hill City starting April 23rd, the class will be held at the Hill city fire dept. classroom. You can check out the available classes on the GF&P website. As always, if you witness a wildlife violation, try to get as much information as you can and call your local Wildlife Conservation Officer or the tip hotline 1-888-683-7224.

Date: 4/7/2015

County: **Fall River**

Reporting Officer: WCO DJ Schroeder

Fishing Activity:

Fishermen were doing pretty good at Angostura this weekend. Anglers were catching a lot of small mouth bass and it appeared as though there was an average of about 2 walleyes per boat. Some nice fish were being



caught from shore as well. Remember the length limits and culling restrictions at Angostura.



Hunting Report:

Small Game - We started a grouse survey recently. The males are very active on the “dancing grounds”. The rooster pheasants are crowing in the ditches. Hopefully that is a sign of things to get a little better in the future. We hope there are enough hens out there to start boosting the population with some decent nesting this year.

Big Game – Most of the big game species appear to be doing well this year. We have had a real mild winter – so I expect them to go into fawning in pretty good shape. We continue to find a few “sick or dead” deer. Sometimes it appears to be CWD and other times just natural mortality. The turkey numbers look ok this year. The gobblers are going strong already and sounding off at everything from car doors to barking dogs. Didn’t see much for archers last week - - but it was Easter and a lot of folks were busy.
Predators and Trapping - - nothing to report this week

Land Report:

We are currently working on grazing and farming leases for the GFP properties. Also, Walk-In Area sign up will begin shortly. If you have land or know someone who has quality hunting property please consider using this program. It has been very popular and successful over the years.